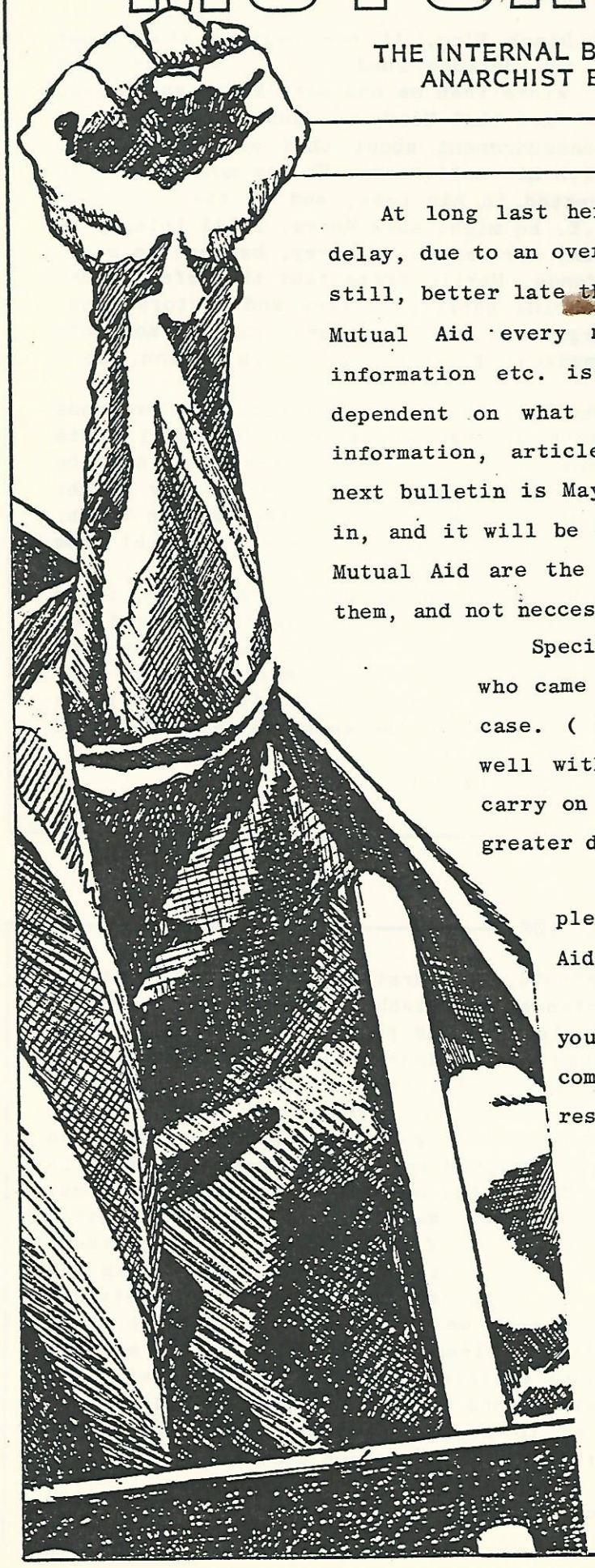
MUTUAL AID

THE INTERNAL BULLETIN OF THE
ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

No 2 MARCH 1988



At long last here is Mutual Aid No.2. Apologies for the delay, due to an overload of work and problems re typesetting, still, better late than never! We are going to try and produce Mutual Aid every month, as we feel it's important that information etc. is circulated regularly. Obviously this is dependent on what we receive, so please keep sending in information, articles, letters, ideas. The deadline for the next bulletin is May 30th, to give people time to send things in, and it will be out at the beginning of June. All items in Mutual Aid are the view/opinion of the individual who wrote them, and not neccessarily those of the ABC.

Special thanks to Hiroshi, Ikuko and Hideasu, who came over here from Japan to publicise Omori's case. (See Gen. Info. and News.) We wish them well with all their future actions, and we will carry on our work for Omori here, now with an even greater determination. Solidarity is our strength.

We have opened a girobank account, so please make any cheques etc. payable to Mutual Aid.

Anyway, stay in touch and let us know what you're involved with, and any comments/suggestions re Mutual Aid. Keep the resistance growing.

Love and liberation,
Sheffield ABC.

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ALL ARE IMPRISONED.

UNTIL ALL ARE FREE

PRISONER UPDATES

MARTIN FORAN

Contrary to what was written in the last Black Flag, it now appears that Roger Merry, Martin's solicitor, IS sorting out the Defence Fund. Martin told me on a visit that Merry was mishandling funds, but since then he has seen Merry and sorted things out. This has partly stemmed from the fact that Merry was publicised in Black Flag, but I am wary of making a public announcement about this as according to Valerie Foran Martin is still pissed off with his solicitors. He has now written to Barnberg and co. in London, who are interested in his case, and if they take the case on the situation could change again. I.E. he might sack Merry. Until things are clearer I would advise people not to send any more money to Merry, because we still don't know for sure if he HAS mishandled funds. Martin wrote that the Defence Fund would now be used for sueing the BMA, covering barristers fees and doctors fees. This seems a bit odd as he is covered by legal aid for legal fees, and I'm not sure if he's legally allowed to have private medical treatment while in prison. So I think we should wait and see.

I'm still waitng for the rest of the photographs of Martin's injuries, my hands are tied until I can get them, as I can't arrange any kind of national media publicity without them. It will cost £57 for the set which is outrageous, and the Support Fund has'nt enough money to pay for them anyway. If anyone has any bright ideas about getting a massive injection of funds to pay for them then get in touch. Otherwise we'll have to wait until Martin can pass them to Val and I can get them copied for about a third of the price.

Finally, a National Day Of Action has been announced in support of Martin, to be on May 6/7 (fri/sat). It's actually on 2 days because the weekday can be used for ringing the Home Office and asking awkward questions etc. and the Sat. can be used for whatever else people want to organise - demo's, Street collections, gigs etc. It's up to people in their own areas to decide what to do . Hopefully lots of funds will get raised and lots of authoritarian types put on the spot, as well as public awareness raised. Good luck with whatever you do!!

Louise (Leeds Black Cross)

BRUCE CHILDS

I recently discovered what Bruce Childs (F78958, Parkhurst) is inside for. Contrary to what he has told people about being sentenced for stabbing a bloke who raped his wife, he is actually in for murdering people, and was part of a contract killing gang, who chopped their victims up. Although he has done a lot of supportive work for Martin Foran, he has lied to people about his situation and having seen letters he has written to various people he seems to be if not psychopathic then at least 'not right in the head'. I think if the Black Cross is going to support people, then in return the prisoner in question should at least display some degree of trust in us in return and be honest with us. Bruce Childs has not done this and my personal feeling is that we should not support him any longer. Martin Foran himself is having severe doubts about remaining friends with Childs. Obviously this is a personal decision for an ABC supporter to take but I for one won't be writing to him any longer. On a final note I would just like to reiterate the importance of 'vetting' prisoners. We must be sure of a prisoner before we offer help and support, this woyld mean building up a correspondance with a prisoner and finding out as much as possible before plugging them in Black Flag or whatever. This did'nt happen with Jim Trimble (not our fault) and did'nt happen with Bruce Childs. No doubt it will happen again but we must take every care we can to avoid supporting dodgey prisoners otherwise we could undo all the good work that has already been done and Black Cross could lose it's credibility.

Louise (Leeds Black Cross)

LETTER FROM KATSUHISA OMORI

Hello! I'm Katsuhisa Omori. Thank you very much for your support.

On January 21 1988, Chief Justice Fumoto Mizutani of Sapporo High Court pronounced a death sentence on me as soon as he opened the court. (Since there is no jury system in Japan, the chief justice just reads the sentencing first then a lengthy "verdict" on the final "hearing" day. Which shows that Japan is an extremely backward and authoritarian state. - translators note.) Voices of anger and protest filled the courtroom. And without a moments delay Chief Justice Mizutani ordered me and lots of our comrades who were sitting in observers seats out of the courtroom, and he went on to read concocted reasons for the ruling in a courtroom from which we were forcibly taken out.

Mizutani and other judges fully supported the "evidence" although they knew perfectly well that it had been manufactured by police and prosecution. They had formed such an irrational opinion on the evidence as they would even call a circle a triangle and something black white, in order to put me to death.

It was political oppression launched by police, prosecution, and court in collusion. It was an oppression against anti-Japanism. It was nothing but an expression of the will of the state of Japan aiming to strangle revolution. The state of Japan is going to condemn my thought and annihilate it together with my body.

From prison, as well as from the courtroom I have consistently been supporting the bombing struggle against the Hokkaido government office. The statement claiming responsibility for the bombing accuses the enemy demanding that "Japan and the Soviet Union, the aggressors-occupants, must withdraw from all areas of Hokkaido, the Kurile islands, and Sakhalin!" Hokkaido, the Kurile islands, and Sakhalin belong neither to Japan nor to the Soviet Union. They are the mother earth for such indigenous inhabitants as the Ainus, the Uiltas, and the Gilyaks. Japan and the Soviet Union have invaded them and have been occupying them. The truth is that the Soviet Union has been occupying Siberia. Japanese inhabitants in Hokkaido are the advance troops of aggression and occupation against Ainu moshiri or Ainu community. And the Hokkaido government office is the centre for the aggressors-occupants.

The same statement claiming responsibility for the bombing asserts that "we must continue to crush Japanese aggression against the Ainus, the Koreans in Japan, the Taiwanese, the Okinawans and the Asian people. We must create our own anti-Japan front in response to their anti-Japan struggle" and it urges comrades to start anti-Japan struggle.

The anti-Japan struggle is a revolution targeting Japan itself as the enemy, and as an aggressor state and nation. The people who carry on the revolution are the people of all the nations who are being forced to suffer by the very existence of Japan. Japan is an empire with a huge sphere of influence. That is to say, Japan is neo-colonialistically invading and robbing Asia, Middle East, Africa and Latin America. People in those lands will carry on the anti-Japan revolution. And those Japanese who would be anti-Japan must fundamentally continue to betray the state and nation of Japan.

I define anti-Japanism as fundamentally perishing of Japan or to rephrase "anti-Japan, perish! state." I've been continuing to urge my comrades to fight the anti- Japan, perish! state struggle.

Japan must be smashed by joint efforts of people of the third world including Asia, and Japanese revolutionaries who continue to betray Japan and fight an anti-Japan, perish! state struggle. Namely, "anti-Japan! perish! state!"

"Anti-Japan, perish! state" means that we demand all states to perish. To generalise, it means a perish state revolution. European states require the perish state revolution, or anti-European perish state revolution. We believe in the building of a horizontal society where there are neither states or nations as we demolish empires and as people of the third world dissolve their own nations and cause their own states to perish. That is, needly to say, a society where there is absolutely no domination or exploitation. It would be a society where small horizontal societies are associated.

Sapporo High Court's death penalty attack on me is for the purpose of suppressing the revolution. Therefore we must by all means go on counterattacking them through an ever growing anti-Japan perish state struggle. I'll put up a good fight.

At the same time we must smash the concocted death penalty ruling. In and out of the Supreme Court, we must tenaciously fight to dissolve the framed-up death ruling and to liberate Omori, mobilising all conceivable means.

We'll do our best. Let's fight in solidarity! Let's fight together!

Katsuhisa Omori.

AVI NAFTEL

Dear ABC.N,

Here is the latest news from Avi, I hope it is self explanatory. The latest update in B.F. 1.2.88 was wrong by the way. There are no charges for the 'key in the bag' affair - the charges they are reffering to, occurred 18 months ago and they've just been resolved.

Avi's only bar to transfer is policy 4.1.4 but if you read on you will see that they can't stop him asking but that's what they are going to do.

Having a barrage of letters sent to the authorities in support of Avi has worked twice before. First time was when they eventually brought him to trial for attempted escape. They'd been stalling almost a year - thereby preventing him from applying for transfer. Second time was at the trial itself. The authorities were pushing for 5 years hard time (i.e. full 5 years). The judge reffered to the laters she'd received and said she was impressed, she even made reference to one in particular, and then gave him the minimum sentence, 2 years soft (one year in practise) and to run at the same time as the original sentence. So no more time. So please try to write - the more the merrier.

As soon as the Home Office has received proof that the trial etc. is all over they are prepared to give the U.S. authorities a prod because in their view Avi fulfills all the criteria in the Council of Europe Convention for the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. We shall have to see if they really do.

Solidarity,

Liz

LETTER FROM AVI NAFTEL, FEB 12th 1988.

Greetings Friends and Supporters,

I have recently returned from Pheonix where I was being held to face an attempted escape charge. This charge, which the Arizona Department of Corrections has been using for over a year to deny me a transfer application, has now been resolved and no longer can stand in the way of my applying for a transfer to England.

Upon my arrival back at the prison, my counselor tried to get the proper forms but was told I would not be allowed to transfer due to a specific portion of policy which does not allow inmates who have been convicted of crimes which involved violence or threatened violence to avail themselves of the transfer policy. I wrote to the Director of Corrections and asked him to over-ride the portion of policy which is stopping me from applying for transfer. My letter was responded to by one of the administrative staff in the Director's office. The response stated that in order for the director to consider my request for an over-ride of policy, I must first submit the transfer application packet for review. When I approached my counselor again, I was told he had phoned the writer of the response and they agreed that since I did not meet criteria due to the policy I was trying to over-ride, I could not apply. The main reason given was that my counselor did not want to go through the process of filling out the forms without first being sure of my eligibility. But it seems that in order to get the Director to make a decision on policy, he must first get the application packet. So it's clearly a catch-22 situation and I am unable to move forward due to beaurocratic inanity.

I am including with this letter the prison policy concerning transfers and the underlined areas are those which apply at this time. Please first look at section 4.1.4. My original sentence was for a crime of threatened violence and so this criteria applies to me. However, this section of policy was not in force when I originally requested a transfer in the latter part of 1985. Furthermore, this particular criteria does not appear in tha transfer Treaty Agreement. My arguement here is that the policy is arbitary and capricious and serves no valid governmental interest. It in fact is discriminatory. In Arizona most crimes with violence or threatened violence receive long sentences. This means that someone trying to get an international transfer would more likely meet the criteria of time requirements, than an inmate with a shorter sentence who is more probably awaiting the appeal process.

(cont over)

Next I ask that you proceed to section 4.2.1 & 4.2.2, regarding institutional procedures which staff must follow in processing an application for transfer. These sections clearly show that the inmate "may submit an application" and says nothing of the staff being able to deny that application, even if the inmate fails to meet criteria for transfer. In fact, if you go to section 4.3.1 & 4.3.2, you will find that the denial of transfer can be done only after the application/transfer packet has been reviewed by the administrative offices of the Offender Services. "If an application is disproved, it shall be filed at the Offender Services Bureau and the inmate shall be notified." Thus, since I have not been allowed to file the transfer packet, no record of my request exists on a formal basis and therefore, for all intents and purposes, the administration doesn't need to consider my request at all. In addition, this shows that the prison staff are not obeying their own rules and regulations.

As you can see, it's a frustrating situation. However there is hope from a number of sources.

With the recent impeachment of Governor Evan Mechum, Rose Mofford has taken over Acting Governor. Ms. Mofford is a much more practical and reasonable individual and may make the difference in whether any pressure from the Governor's Office can be brought to bear against the Department of Corrections.

Letters of support are crucial at this particular time. For those of you doubting the effectiveness of letters to public authorities, I can only say that without the vast network of support I received last year, to get the escape charges resolved, I would still be mired down in that mess. It was the result of letters and phone calls that brought the charges to resolution, have no doubt about that. That was the first step towards clearing the road for transfer. This policy and application issue is the second. Support needs to be applied in the same way as it was before. So please do write to the officials I have indicated at the end of this letter. I am also including a sample letter of what the officials will be wanting to hear.

Please write those letters and place phone calls. We did it before with effectiveness and we can do it again. As always, I am ready to provide any information if asked. Documentation is available to prove any and all claims and/or statements I make.

Thank you for taking the time to help me by reading this letter. I will appreciate anything you can do to help me out. I leave you with my best wishes.

Towards a liberated world,

I am,

Avi Naftel

TRANSFER OF INMATES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES - US TREATY AGREEMENTS. NO. 502.1

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS - INTERNAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

Section 4.1.4 The inmate must not have been sentenced for a crime of violence or threatened violence.

Section 4.2.1 Inmates who wish to apply for transfer may submit an Application For Transfer to Foreign Country.

Section 4.2.2 Upon receipt of the transfer application, the CPO shall forward it to the Warden or Deputy Warden, who shall ensure that a transfer packet is prepared.....

Section 4.3.1 When the transfer packets are received, the Offender Services Staff shall review each application to determine eligibility.

Section 4.3.2 ....If an application is disapproved, it shall be filed at the Offender Services Bureau and the inmate shall be notified.....

(Ed - A full copy of the above policy is available free from us on request.)

SAMPLE LETTER

Your name
Address

Date

Official's name
Address

Re: Arnold Naftel, A.D.O.C. #45287
International Transfer

Dear Mr/Ms,

Arnold has been trying to apply for an international transfer since 1986. Originally his application was held up due to his counselor's failure to obtain the transfer packet. Following that, Arnold was ineligible to transfer due to pending charges. Those charges are now resolved and no appeal is pending.

Arnold meets all Corrections Policy requirements for transfer except section 4.1.4 of Policy 502.1. I am asking you to over-ride section 4.1.4 and allow Arnold to apply for transfer to England.

I feel that section 4.1.4 is unfair and prohibits the most likely inmates from applying and obtaining an international transfer. There are many good reasons to allow this transfer both on humanitarian grounds and for the good of the citizens of the State of Arizona. The criteria which is holding Arnold back is not included in the Treaty Agreement between England and the United States. Arnold meets criteria in all other respects.

Sincerely,

The following are addresses of public officials. Please concentrate on the Arizona Department of Corrections and the Governors Office. But also, letters to Federal and Home Office in England are important so that those offices will maintain an interest and send enquiries to Arizona officials.

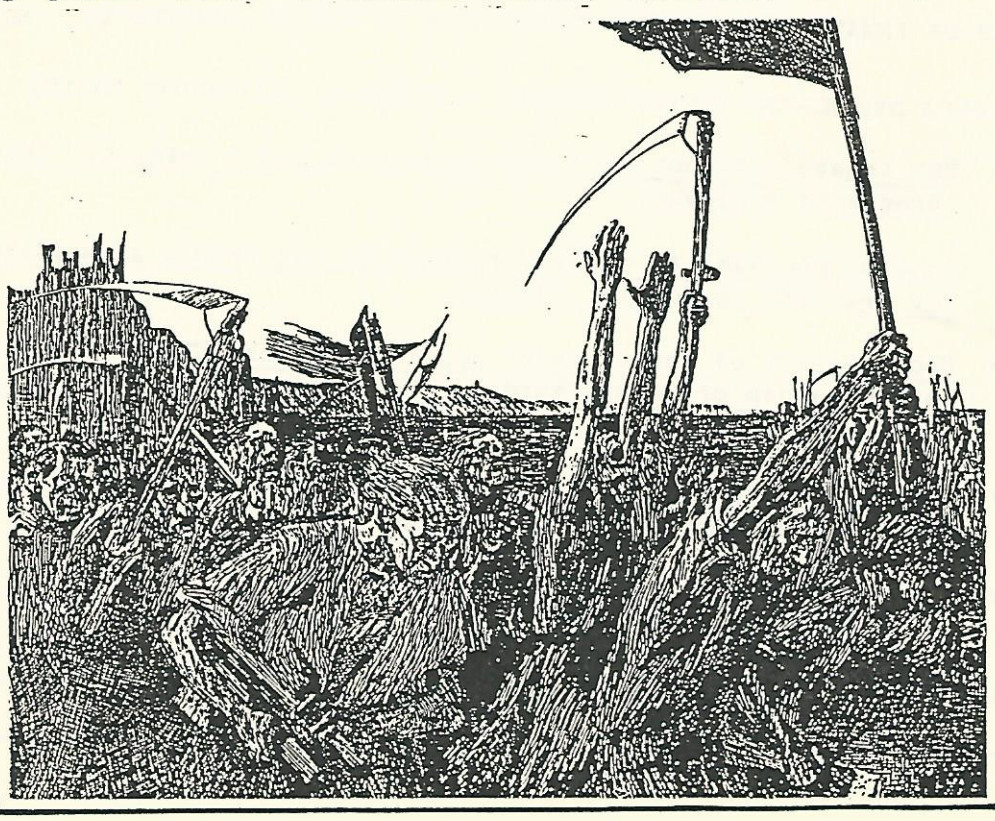
Rose Mofford, Acting Governor, Office of the Governor, State House, Pheonix, Arizona 85007, U.S.A.

Sam Lewis, Director , Arizona Department of Corrections, 1601 W.Jefferson, Pheonix, Arizona 85007, U.S.A. Phone: 602 - 255 - 5530.

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Internal Affairs, Criminal Division, PO Box 7413, Beb Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Home Office, Criminal Policy Department, Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 98E, England. United States Dept. of State, Office of Consular Services, Washington, D.C. 20520, U.S.A.

When writing please refer to Arnold Naftel, A.D.O.C., #45287, International Transfer.



LETTER FROM JOHN PEROTTI

January 25th 1988

Dear comrades,

I suffered 3rd degree burns to my hands and foot putting out a cell fire. I've been at the outside hospital having skin grafts and was placed in the isolation block upon return, where I remain. Prison officials have confiscated my personal and legal property so I'm making do as best I can. I've received many lettters and cards from comrades over there and I'm trying to reply to all.

I would like to know the results of John Bowdens efforts to organise the comrades there, and we all express our solidarity. It's unusual when prison officials co-operate - they oppose us at all turns here, but worse yet the new breed of prisoners here have no real principles and blindly accept their situation. The courts have slowly turned against us and the only recourse left is rioting and violence. Yet we continue to organise our brothers and will continue to do so regardless of the odds. So you see, our constitution really only helps the rich, as the judges are all right wing and summarily dismiss our complaints. We will continue to utilise the legal system though, if for nothing else than to bog down the courts and cost the state money and time. Prisoners do not have a constitutional right to unionise, this was made clear by the Supreme Court in North Carolina Prisoners Union v. Jones. But they can't stop us from informally organising and meeting. Their main tactic against us is to lock us in isolation and to keep inmate spy's on us.

That's the situation here. I have a trial scheduled for March 28th which they have said will be held in the prison for 'security' reasons. I appreciate the funds you all have sent and they will be used in further efforts here.

All for now. We all send our expressions of solidarity. Stay strong!!

In solidarity,

John

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LETTER FROM MELBOURNE ABC

'BLACK AND BLUE', PO BOX 1257, COLLINGWOOD, VIC. 3066

January 10th 1988

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your encouraging support for the magazine ' Black and Blue', No.1 which was a Melboune organ of the International organisation Anarchist Black Cross.

We regret our silence over the last few months and the lack of second edition. Commitment to more local anarchist activities, illness and geogrphic mobilty have impeded our efforts to remain as active in the latter part of 1987 as we had been up to that time.

The cost of publishing 'Black and Blue' in addition to contributing to other anarchist publications has led us to decide to print ABC information in the pages of Rebel Worker (produced monthly, as an A.S.F. journal) and Libertarian Workers (produced periodically). Where possible any further issues of 'Black and Blue' will be produced, especially if extraordinary circumstances warrant it.

We remain contactable at Box 1257 Collingwood, and back copies of 'Black and Blue' No.1 will be sent on request.

We encourage you to continue to support ABC, which remains the principle hope of many prisoners of conscience throughout the world. ABC Melbourne can give you contact addresses for Black Cross branches, Anarchist and Prisoners Support Groups.

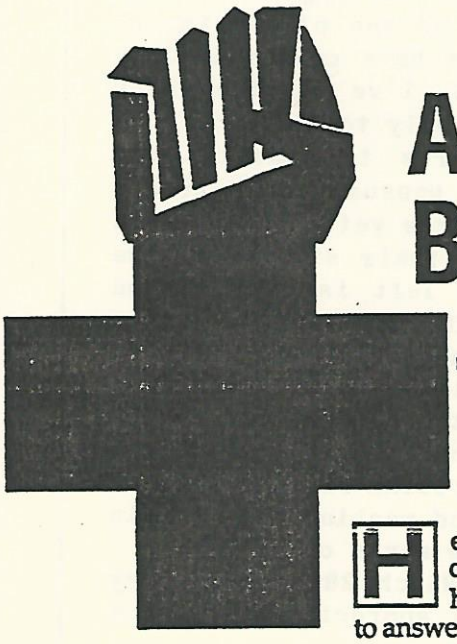
Some important ones are:-

P.A.G., 25 Gertrude St., Fitzroy, Vic. 3065.
Lib. Workers, PO Box 20, Parkville, Vic. 3052.
A.S.F. (Melbourne), PO Box 1066, North Richmond, Vic. 3121.
Black Flag/Black Cross, BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX.

Thank you again for your support,

In solidarity,

Jane (for ABC)



ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

ABC - TORONTO
P.O. Box 6326 Stn A
Toronto Ontario
M5W 1P7 Canada
tel: (416) 947-0808

March 1, 1988

To all ABC groups and supporters

Hello, it's been a while since we've contacted all ABC contacts due to an overload of local work. We apologize to anyone who's written us in the last while...if you haven't received a reply yet, we are working on it. But we do have a lot of mail to answer, so it's been taking us quite a while recently.

The Toronto ABC has streamlined its collective process - we now have weekly meetings and have a regular working group. We are no longer publishing "ABC Bulletins"; instead, we'll publish **Urgent Action Bulletins** when necessary for particular cases, and of course, we'll continue to publish "Reality Now" which will include longer articles on a wider variety of subjects, and opinions/strategies. Many of us are also involved in the local **Ecomedia office** which publishes a local bi-weekly anarchist bulletin and does three radio shows a week, as well.

We're presently working on the networking project detailed later in this mailout. Plans for the next little while may include a benefit for class war prisoners, and participation in the **International Day of Action for Omori** *(March 29,1988)*. We hope to increase our action as much as possible from here on in.

Here in Canada things have been picking up somewhat. We're very pleased with the start up of the **Vancouver ABC**, all very good and dedicated people. We've also made very good contacts in Montreal, with a group called **"Socialisme et liberte"**, an anarcho-syndicalist group who are very interested in doing Black Cross type work. We urge other ABC contacts to get in touch with them as well, at: *Socialisme et liberte,* c/o Librairie Alternative, 2035 Boul. St. Laurent, Montreal, PQ, H2X 2T3, Canada.

We hope that other ABC contacts feel alright about our definition of the international ABC (enclosed) which we used for a leaflet describing our work. If anyone has a criticism or feels something must be changed, please write to us. And, while we're at it, we'd love to hear from other ABC contacts regularly - *let us know what you're up to and how we can help.* Special thanks to the Sheffield ABC for MUTUAL AID, the internal bulletin of the ABC, let's all make good use of it.

Also, we're hoping to be able to communicate via computer with other groups. Those who have computers and a modem, please contact us and tell us how we can send and receive information from you. This might make response quicker and save us all money on phone calls.

Anyways, thanks for your continued work and we look forward to building the pressure together.

Love,
the Anarchist Black Cross - Toronto.

ABC Contacts

At the moment we have contact addresses for the following ABC groups: London ABC, Denmark ABC, Melbourne ABC, Vancouver ABC, Brisbane ABC, Sheffield ABC, ABC (Greece), Leeds ABC, Oxford ABC, Midlands ABC, Bolton ABC, ABC California, ABC-Aberdeen.

We suspect there are more ABC groups and supporters we should be in touch with, so if you aren't on this list or if you know a group which isn't on this list and should be, drop us a line.

Results of the Atlanta Anarchist meeting; prisoner support networking

January 16th and 17th there was a meeting of the Continental Anarchists' Network to which several members of the Toronto ABC and one member of the Vancouver ABC went. At the weekend there was a meeting for all those interested in forming a more cohesive network of support for anarchist and class war prisoners and others, from which several concrete projects were started to further this network.

To begin with, the Toronto ABC will be compiling a contact list for groups and individuals who are actively working on support for prisoners; much like the one we have distributed in the past. This list, however, will be a compilation of other peoples' contacts as well. The list will be used mostly to mail information to eachother on prisoners and prison situations (and other things) which can be used by each group, and for co-ordinating actions on a continental or world wide basis. What we are asking now, is for other groups, such as those contacted in this bulletin, to send us a list of contacts, with addresses and hopefully phone numbers where applicable (and computer contacts too, where possible) of such people. Please make sure that the addresses are current, that the people want to be on this list, and that they are useful contacts who will act in some way on the information they receive (and send out information too).

Once this list is completed, we will be sending copies out to everyone on it. We hope this list will be used frequently to maintain contact between groups which could be working together.

The Wimmin's Prisoner Survival Network will be publishing a list of alternative literature (books, magazines) which are available to prisoners at a reduced rate or for free. This list will be distributed to prisoners. Please send the names and addresses and details of such publications or book services to the WPSN. This list will also be made available to those on the contact list described above.

Finally, a list of prisoners in need of assistance is being compiled. This list will detail the name, address, and case of individual prisoners, as well as information on what kind of support they need, who might already be doing support or who can provide further information on their case, and any short notes on themselves. We would prefer if people specifically state what they are in for, and please keep it short. SO, both prisoners who receive this mailout, and groups are welcome to write up information on either themselves or on any prisoners who agree to be put on such a list. The completed entries should be sent to:
U.S.A. and international: Gabriella Arensdorf, P.O. Box 3266, El Segundo, CA, 90245-8366, USA
Canada: ABC Toronto, P.O. Box 6326, Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario M5W1P7

Once completed, this list will be distributed to all contacts in this network. We would ask that the list be confined to those in need of suport from the movement rather than in becoming a "personals" column for prisoners, as these are available elsewhere. Anarchists and class war prisoners, or those imprisoned for political action should specify this too.

We hope that through the creation of this network we will see more effective action on behalf of prisoners. We would also like to see the setting up of more Black Cross groups in areas where there are none or where there is no equivalent organization, and want further contact with those involved in this sort of work.

Please respond soon to this request so that these lists can be compiled quickly. We should point out that although this idea has been discussed for the North American community specifically, we would prefer it to be international, so all those contacts in other countries, we'd like to hear from you too.

What is the Anarchist Black Cross?

The Anarchist Black Cross is an international network of autonomous groups of anarchists who work to ensure that anarchist, class struggle and other prisoners aren't forgotten.

The Anarchist Red Cross was started in Tsarist Russia to organize aid for political prisoners and to organize self-defense against political raids by Cossacks. During the Russian civil war, they changed their name to the Black Cross in order to avoid confusion with the Red Cross who were organizing relief in the country. After the Bolsheviks seized power they moved to Berlin and continued to aid prisoners of the new regime, as well as victims of Italian fascism and others. The Black Cross fell apart during the depression due to the incredible demand for its services and a decline in financial aid. In the late 60's the organization resurfaced in Britain, where it first worked to aid prisoners of the Spanish resistance, which had not in fact died after the civil war. Now it has expanded and works in many different areas, with contacts and other Black Cross groups in many countries around the world.

The ABC hopes to bring attention to the plight of prisoners in general, psychiatric prisoners, and to anarchist and class war prisoners in particular; and, through contact with and information about anarchist prisoners, inspire anarchist resistance on the outside. Although we aren't able to send regular financial aid to our comrades in prison (yet), we do keep in regular contact with as many prisoners as possible, make visits, and do whatever we can to prevent prisoners becoming isolated. We fund-raise on behalf of prisoners or defense committees in need of funds for legal cases or otherwise, and organize demonstrations of solidarity with imprisoned anarchists.

We believe, as most anarchists do, that prisons serve no useful function (except for the ruling classes) and should be abolished along with the State. We differ from liberal prison reformists and groups like Amnesty International in two main ways: firstly, we believe in the abolition of both the prison system and the society which creates it and initiate all action with that in mind; secondly, we believe in direct resistance to achieve a stateless and classless society. Groups like Amnesty International balk at supporting anyone accused of so-called 'violent' acts, thus insinuating that anyone who takes up arms in self-defense or who resists is not worthy of support. The message is clear: do not resist. Our message is exactly the opposite, and this is what we work to support. We share a commitment to revolutionary anarchism as opposed to liberalism or individualism.

Outside of prison work, the ABC is committed to active collaboration in the wider resistance with which these prisoners are engaged. We see a real need for anarchists to be organized if we are to effectively meet the organized repression of the State and avoid defeat. What is also needed is commitment. We see the setting up of anarchist defence organizations such as the ABC as a necessary part of the creation and maintenance of an anarchist resistance movement.

As anarchists we believe in the promotion of direct action and collective organization in the workplace, the schools, the community and the streets, as a means of regaining power over our own lives and creating a society based on mutual aid and cooperation.

The Toronto ABC

The Toronto ABC is an autonomous section of the international Black Cross. We originally came together around the case of Katsuhisa Omori, an anarchist sympathizer on death row in Japan. We organize demonstrations; we mail out urgent action bulletins on the cases of prisoners in need of immediate help; we send material aid when possible to anarchist prisoners; some of us publish the magazine *Reality Now* for international distribution; we maintain contact and correspondence with *many* prisoners; we try to raise funds for prisoners in need and for anarchist resistance internationally; and we regularily provide information on prisons, prisoners, and anarchist resistance, to other groups, the local Ecomedia radio show and bi-weekly news bulletin, and to other papers.

We decide what prisoners to support and what work we will do on a case-by-case basis. We put priority on the cases of anarchists and activists as this corresponds to our commitment to building resistance. We are also concerned quite strongly with the situation of Native people in prison, especially considering the completely disproportionate number of Native people in prison in Canada.

Anarchist Black Dragon

The Anarchist Black Dragon was a newspaper produced by anarchist prisoners in Walla Walla, Washington, including the prison activist Carl Harp, who was later found murdered in his cell. The following is a letter from Robert Shane Green, who is attempting to re-activate the ABD.

On December 15, 1987, I was returned to Washington State after 5 years in exile in other prisons around the country. Upon my return to Walla Walla — site of the May '79 hostage incident — the cops immediately had me segregated and placed in Intensive Management Unit (IMU).

Seeing that I am back in Wash. St. where the mail policies regarding literature are a little less strict than other prisons I have been in, I am looking forward to recieving the material that the various groups and individuals have collated at my request for the republication of the Anarchist Black Dragon.

Wash. St. Penitentiary nail room policy regarding literature is that it must come from a store or the publisher. So anyone who has material to forward but is not part of a group or publishing organization can do one of two things:
1) Forward the material to any of the major anarchist publications (ed—you can send it to RN Publishers) with a request that they forward it to me (you may want to help them with the postage).
2) Package the stuff up and ask any local bookstore to mail it. If you do it this way you should leave your name with the clerk so just in case the material comes back s/he can contact you.

Prior to returning to Washington I had over 29 more years to serve in prison. But shortly after my return my sentence structure was brought under the new Indeterminate Sentencing guidelines. These new guidelines cut approx. 26 years off my sentence. I used to have a release date of Nov. 26, 2016, now I have a release date of Jan. 29, 1990.

As long as I am held in IMU I cannnot change that 1990 release date — but if I were allowed the opportunity to work or go to school in some program in some way then I could gain the good time necessary to cut up to 10 days a month off the 1990 date.

The people responsible for holding me in IMU are all people that were directly involved in the hostage incident of '79 & the out-of-state transfer hearing in 1983: Stan Sturgill, IMU hearing officer; Larry Sutton, IMU grievance coordinator; Carl Frank, IMU Shift Sgt.

All three of the above were hostages during the takeover; now they are in positions of power high enough that their actions are not reviewable by others and they are using that power to keep me in IMU

I have 2 attorneys that are currently helping me by pressuring the officials in Olympia as well as the officials here at the prison. I am eligible for minimum custody & work or school release.

At this time I do not feel it is in my best interest to have letters pouring in to the officials demanding my transfer. Occasionally the officials see the letters pouring in and automatically believe that the prisoner has too much influence so they keep him in a more restrictive environment.

What I need more than anything to continue my efforts is stamps. Prisoners here are allowed to recieve stamps through regular mail — U.S. stamps only — no more than $10 worth at any one time. Any one that can afford to send me 1, 2, 5, or 10 stamps please know that they will be used to help get me out of prison, get the Anarchist Black Dragon restarted, and help me stay in touch with others. Stamps or just letters can be sent to the below addresses.

Robert Shane Green #628148 I.M.U. E7
or Phil Scalice #278401 I.M.U. E-11
P.O. Box 520
Walla Walla, Washington
99362 U.S.A.

Notice for wimmin who have been or are imprisoned

NEEDED:

Any wimmin who have been institutionalized *(In a psychiatric prison - ed.)* that would be willing to share any stories, writings, drawings, or just their experiences while they were in the institution, and now are hopefully out and liberated.

I am presently working on a performance for which I am applying for a Canada Council Dance grant, and an Ontario Arts Council Multidisciplinary grant. The work is entitled *"Memoirs of Darkness and Light"*; this piece will portray the experiences of wimmin in institutions. It will explore these experiences and reflect the impressions of wimmin from varying backgrounds and age groups. This very real illustration of the plight of wimmin; the prejudices against the poor, elderly and ethnic, will focus on their isolation, deprivation, forced treatment, and their abilities to overcome and rise above these predicaments.

Any contributions would be greatly appreciated and treated with discretion and respect.

Mia Blackwell
P.O. Box 5153, Station A
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5W 1N5

Neither Expulsion nor Extraditon

International Campaign for the liberation of Roberto Gemignani and all Italian prisoners in France

"Roberto Gemignani has been in jail since December 24, 1986, under the threat of being extradited. All 4 requests by his lawyers for conditional liberation were rejected.

In today's context, in France as well as on the international level, no political refugees or immigrants are safe from repression and this is particularly true in the police and judiciary European space.

This leads us to send this message beyond the French frontiers to create a campaign of solidarity and action in the context of each country. This is the reason why we ask you to participate in the International Day of Action, March 6th, 1988, in the campaign for the freedom of Roberto and all French Italian prisoners. We would like this initiative to start a concrete solidarity on an international level on the basis of regular exchanges of information and mutual actions."

Note: We just recieved this notice and know nothing about this particular case. Please contact the address below to find out more and to perhaps get involved. Also please put these people on your mailing lists if applicable.

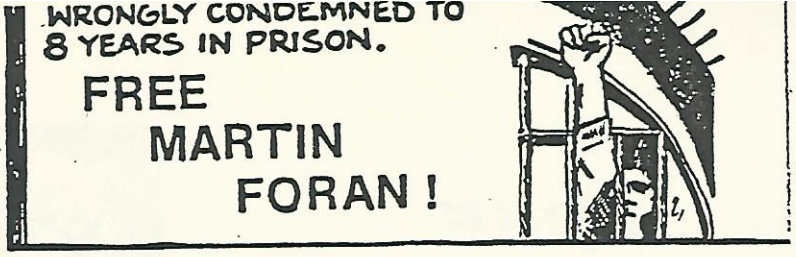
Comité de Contre-Information et Solidarité
Mouvement Libertaire Français
65, rue Bichat,
75019 Paris France

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR OMORI - MARCH 29th.

In London a picket was held outside the Japanese Embassy. Leaflets in English and Japanese were distributed to embassy staff and passers by, and we had a variety of placards and banners. Those inside the embassy most certainly heard our demands!!! We hope that actions elsewhere were successful. We feel that international actions are very effective and create a greater degree of solidarity, we should definately try and do more in the future. Let us know any ideas you may have on this.

OMORI LEAVES SAPPORO HIGH COURT, 1985. 'The best picture of Omori so far'.

LEEDS BLACK CROSS
BOX JAG
52 CALL LANE
LEEDS 1



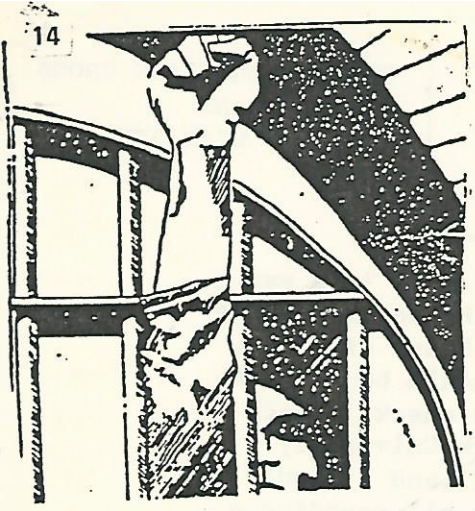
BLACK FLAG-BLACK CROSS
BM HURRICANE
LONDON WC1N 3XX

DAY OF ACTION CALLING FOR MARTIN'S RELEASE.....MAY 6 TH..... this was decided at the last Northern Anarchist Network conference. It is hoped that there will be pickets of the London and Manchester Prison Inspectorate Board offices. The London address is Cleland House,Page St. London W1 . There should be a lunch time picket and a phone in to try and jam the switchboard. Please check ' Black Flag ' for details or write to the Leeds Black Cross address. York Universtiy supporters will do leafleting petions and a letter writing stall,and it would be best if people do what they can in their own areas. If this is all sounding a bit too ' nice ' or 'tame' and anyone wants to do stronger direct action do so but don't get caught.....it's not that we need a respectable image it's that there isn't money available to help pay a load of fines . Again please let Leeds know what action you have taken .
One thing which needs to be stressed is that actions can still be planned before the day, no one need save their energy for the day of action.Hopefully everyone reading this is trying to write to Martin as often as they can and taking appropriate measures to publicise his case.....

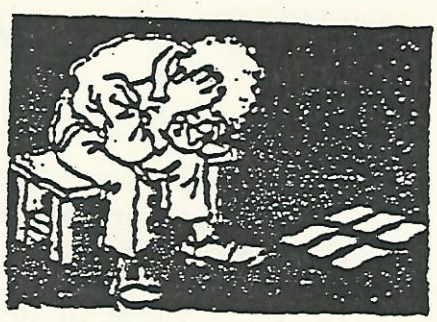
MEDIA COVERAGE . . .SOME GOOD NEWS AT LAST.....THE WORLD IN ACTION team have asked for information on Martin's trial and will hopefully do a programme on the wrongful conviction for robbery. Leeds Black Cross have now got the full case file on Martin . The Irish Media company R.T.E wrote to Mike in York asking for information on Martin's trial and imprisonment. Appeals have been made by supporters of Martin to write to 'Rough Justice '. This programme do not seem too interested in Martin and did notify him back in November that they will not be taking up his case. It may be worth still writing to them but it is probably not worth making it the main point of a leaflet. Remeber that even if they decide to take up Martin's case,it will take several months of research before the programme is made then a while before it will be shown .It may be worth looking elsewhere for coverage. Leeds B.C. also have photos taken after Martin was assaulted by prison staff back in June 1986.The plan was to release them to the media when Martin's case against the men in question comes up,but it looks like being postponed again.

ANARCHISTS IN MANCHESTER HAVE BROUGHT OUT A GOOD A5 SIZE LEAFLET which can be used as an introduction to Martin s case and it is worth ordering or copying, available from Sunshine Distribution, c/o Raven,75 Piccadilly, MANCHESTER 1.....Anarchists in Bradford have organised a gig for the support fund ,it will probably have happened by the time you get this but featured Karma Sutra,AOA, The Next World,Pete Pax, and Danbert Nobacon,and was held at the Manhattan Club in Bradford.Thanks to the organisers and the bands who played. York Universtiy Anarchists got the Student Union to pass a motion in support of Martin which also mandates the S.U. Executive to help publiscise Martin's case. Martin said that the screws at Parkhurst are expecting Student demonstrators outside the prison. Copies of the motion are available from Leeds,and is applicable to other student unions and to other unions.In real terms it's main value is that it gives supporters a chance to bring Martin's case to the attention of more people.
Two more items,both which are very important.Money is needed to carry on the campaign.Please send money to the MARTIN FORAN SUPPORT FUND and also s.a.e. s for the next newsletter.Money is always needed and several individuals are having to pay for campaign material from their own pockets. Contributions to the Leeds address.Also Leeds Black Cross will forward messages of support on to Martin's family.Please don't forget them,they've suffered a lot too.

Please carry on writing to Martin,letters are always welcome.
Martin Foran (C51796) Parkhurst Prison,NEWPORT,
Isle of Wight PO30 5NX



FREE MARTIN FORAN.



THIS NEWSLETTER HAS COME ABOUT BECAUSE IT SEEMED THAT THERE WERE GROUPS and individuals who were interested in campaigning for the release of Martin Foran but were not always in touch with other like-minded people, or sure what other groups were doing. This newsletter has mainly been written by Mike from York and is written from a personal viewpoint. The idea is that the newsletters should be written by different individuals or groups and will hopefully spread information and ideas and not be an attempt to co-ordinate the campaign from a central position. Having said that please let Leeds Black Cross know if you have any news of activities done on Martin's behalf and please send a copy of any leaflets or articles you have had printed to do with Martin : That way a store of information can be used by other groups. Leeds Black Cross will also act as a contact for information on Martin and will answer any queries people have about any aspect of Martin's trial or conditions of imprisonment, so please consider adding that address as well as a local contact on any leaflets you bring out.

LEEDS BLACK CROSS, BOX JAG, 52 CALL LANE, LEEDS 1

THE LATEST LETTERS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GETTING FROM MARTIN MAKE SAD READING. Martin needs to have an operation which would entail part of the lower bowel being removed and a permanent colostomy fitted. He was at first very wary of having such a major op. done by members of the prison medical staff, which is understandable considering the way they have mistreated him over the last three years .It was then agreed that the op. could be performed in an outside hospital , probably in London; the problem is now is that Martin is scared of being moved too quickly after such major surgery and either rushed back to Parkhurst (which is now unlikely) or being placed in a London hospital, none of which have adequate medical facilities to deal with an inmate in Martin's condition. Matters have worsened with a specialist warning Martin that he will be impotent after the operation.

This raises the question how best can we get Martin released, Martin simply can not carry on in such inhuman conditions indeffinately. Some supporters feel that we must immediately try and establish a case for Martin's release on health grounds. At the very least we must demand that Martin is garunteed a period of recuperation in a hospital after the operation. As Martin is still counted as a citizen of the Irish Republic the Irish Embassy and Martin's T.D. (Irish M.P.-Desmond O'Malley who represents Limerick and has been sympathetic) have been contacted to see if the Irish Government will call for Martin's release on health grounds. Moreover, in a case known as Middlewick v. Chief Constable of Merseyside (1985) it was established that there ' must be some minimum standard to render detention lawful '.... this case also ' a person's lawful detention in a prison cell would cease to be lawful in if the conditions in that cell were seriously prejudical to health '...

Martin has tried using this in the past when he was at Long Lartin and was moved from that prison but it is not clear if this could be used against the whole prison service. Anyway the N.C C.L will be approached on this matter to see if it can be established that Martin being held in his present (or post-operation) condition can be counted as unlawful.

It may be worth trying to go to the European Court at Strasbourg on the grounds that Martin has been subjected to ' inhuman and degrading punishment ' . It would publicise Martin's case though obviously anything this body decides is not legally binding.